

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

COMMERCE:MR. HOSTLER

NEA/RA - MR. MONTGOMERY (SUBS)

L/NEA - MR. HUFFMAN (INFO)

----- 110056

P 200040Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI REQUIREMENT EXCLUDING STAR OF DAVID
SY OL

JIDDA PLEASE SHOW ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

1. DURING MEETING OF STATE AND COMMERCE OFFICIALS WITH
AMBASSADOR ALIREZA ON DECEMBER 19 ON BUILDING AND
CONSTRUCTION EXHIBITION (SEE SEPTTEL), ALSO RAISED WAS
REQUIREMENT THAT HAS RECENTLY APPEARED IN NUMEROUS LETTERS
OF CREDIT FROM SAUDI PRIVATE SECTOR PURCHASERS THAT AS
CONDITION OF PAYMENT EXPORTER MUST CERTIFY THAT STAR OF
DAVID SYMBOL NOT APPEAR ON EITHER THE PRODUCT OR THE
PACKAGING. WE INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT STAR OF DAVID
SYMBOLS OFTEN APPEAR ON FOOD PRODUCTS TO SHOW THEY MEET
RELIGIOUS STANDARDS BUT THESE LETTERS OF CREDIT COVERED
MACHINERY AND HARD GOODS. WE INQUIRED WHETHER THE
INCLUSION OF THIS CONDITION REFLECTED SIMPLY THE ACTION OF
INDIVIDUAL SAUDI BUSINESSMEN OR IF IT WAS A CONDITION
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IMPOSED BY SAG FOR LETTERS OF CREDIT. IF IT WAS INTENDED

TO BE DIRECTED AT JEWISH FIRMS, THE LETTERS OF CREDIT
COULD NOT BE PROCESSED.

2. AMBASSADOR ALIREZA SAID THIS CERTIFICATION WAS NOT A
SAG REQUIREMENT. SAG, OF COURSE, HAD NO CONTROL OVER
PRIVATE SECTOR PURCHASERS AND COULD NOT FORCE THEM TO
MODIFY THEIR PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS BUT HE HAD NO
INSTRUCTIONS TO INSIST ON THIS REQUIREMENT. HE REQUESTED
THE NAMES OF COMPANIES IN SAUDI ARABIA THAT HAD ASKED FOR
THIS CERTIFICATION AND VOLUNTEERED TO WRITE PERSONALLY
(NOT AS AMBASSADOR BUT AS A FORMER BUSINESSMAN) TO JIDDA
AND RIYADH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO SEE IF THIS MATTER
COULD NOT BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY. HE INDICATED HE
PREFERRED DEALING ON THIS ISSUE FIRST WITH CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE RATHER THAN WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. COMMERCE HAS PROMISED TO FURNISH AMBASSADOR WITH LIST
OF SAUDI COMPANIES INVOLVED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, PFOR, US, SA
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
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